

RECEIVED

FEB 8 9 1999

RECEIVED

AUG 23 1999



EIS000023

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY • LOS ANGELES

Affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War • Recipient of the 1985 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

1316 Third Street Promenade, Suite B-1 • Santa Monica, California 90401 • 310 458-2694 • 310 458-7925 fax • psrsm@psr.org

August 10, 1999

COPY

SPONSORS

Fornal List

Helen Caldwell, M.B.
President Emerita
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Christine Casol, M.D.
Mount Sinai Hospital, New York

Charles Clements, M.D.
Boston, Massachusetts

Anne H. Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Stanford University

Daniel Ellsberg, Ph.D.
Mentation Project II

H. Jack Geiger, M.D.
City College of New York

Howard M. Watt, M.D.
Harvard Medical School

Alexander Leal, M.D.
Harvard Medical School

Robert Jay Lifton, M.D.
Yale University

Robert E. Livingston, M.D.
University of California-San Diego

Bernard Lown, M.D.
Harvard School of Public Health

Ray W. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Clinic

Victor W. Sidel, M.D.
Emory College of Medicine

Robert E. Tranquada, M.D.
University of Southern California

Rod Vaughan Tuckson, M.D.
Charles Drew University

Jonathan Parfrey
Executive Director

Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Yucca Mountain - Draft EIS - Public Comment Period

Dear Secretary Richardson:

1...

Our organization of 2400 health professionals and supporters in southern California are very troubled by the limited scope of hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain

2

Here in southern California, many thousands of individuals may be effected by the transportation of radioactive waste via rail and truck through our region. Waste from nuclear plants at Humboldt Bay and Rancho Seco will travel down Interstate 5 through Los Angeles and then up Interstate 15 into Nevada. High-level waste from the Diablo Canyon plant will travel by rail directly through downtown Los Angeles. San Onofre's waste will move through densely populated areas of Orange and Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

3

Our region may further be effected if the Yucca Mountain facility fails in its mission to secure highly toxic waste for 10,000 years. Santa Ana winds regularly drive Great Basin air into our region. Geologists further point to migration of radionuclides in underground aquifers beneath the Nevada Test Site moving in the direction of Owens Valley. With toxic lives of 250,000 years, the nuclear waste secreted at Yucca Mountain, may impact our areas' water sources.

4

...1

Therefore, Los Angeles must be a site in which to hold public hearings. The public participation process will otherwise be inadequate to the scope of the possible environmental and health impacts. In closing, we request that DOE provide a clear, understandable, and responsive assessment of our comments.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Parfrey
Jonathan Parfrey

COPY

cc: Mr. Lane Barrett, Acting Director, DOE Office of Civilian Radwaste Management